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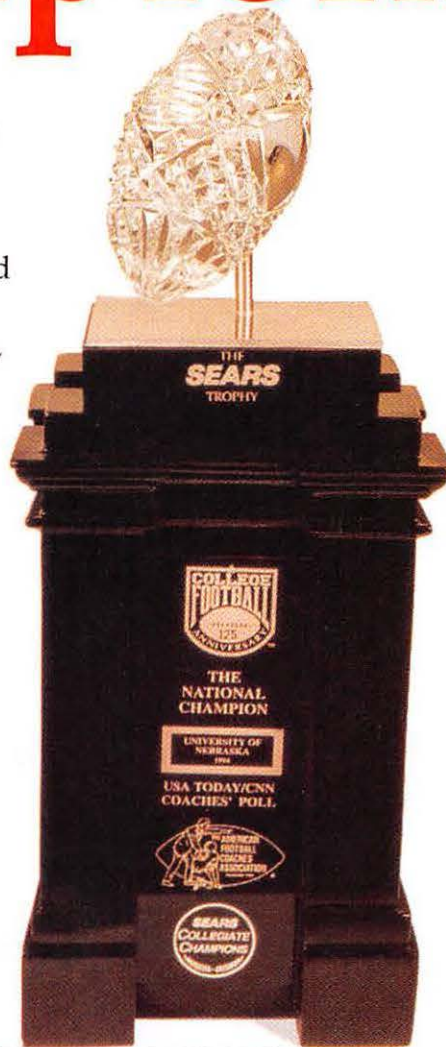
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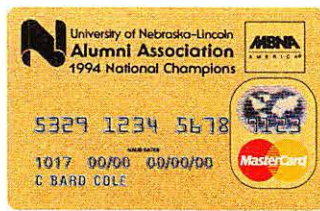
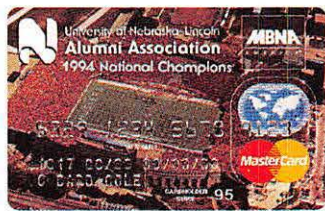
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PUBLISHER
Robert Bennett

**EDITORIAL & OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR**
Chris Greer

PRODUCTION
Jeff Cannon, Homer Jacobs, Blain Fowler,
John McFarland

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jeff Tudor

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING
COORDINATOR**
Todd McVeigh

CIRCULATION
Laura Hawk, Ann Johnston

ACCOUNTING
Kathleen Newton, Carolyn Rhodes

SALES MANAGER
Moses Padron

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mike Babcock, Mark Derowitsch, Mike
Friend, James Hale, Nebraska Sports
Information Office

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Bob Berry, William Lauer

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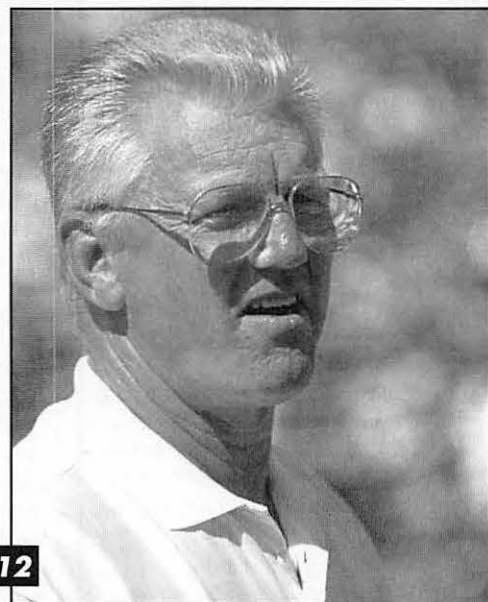
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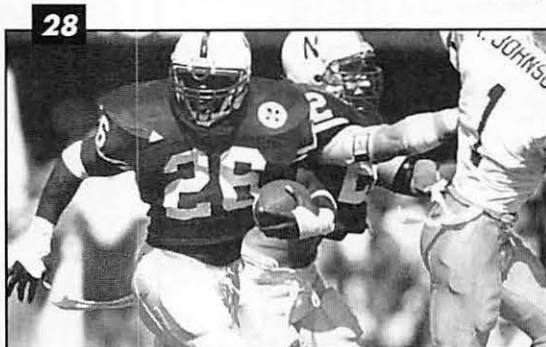
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Two thumbs up to Nebraska officials for bringing back Herbie Husker. When I heard that Herbie had been thrown to the wolves, I went into total shock. I didn't understand the rationale that he wasn't the image that Nebraska was trying to convey. What else would we have — a tractor or a guy running around in an ear of corn suit? Why give those Fruit of the Loom guys any extra work?

I think Herbie Husker is a great mascot. Other than Ralphie (Colorado's mascot), I think he's the best in the conference. I mean, what's so exciting about the Sooner Schooner? If you've seen it tip over once, the best sight is surely in the past.

Anyway, before I start insulting everything from that bird in Kansas to the big-headed cat in Manhattan, I thought I'd just get my opinion out in the open.

Live long and prosper, Herbie.
 Kathy Moreland
 Lincoln, Neb.

Don't cave into the times. I say let Herbie Husker stay. Many schools have started to tinker with the uniforms, logos and mascots in vein attempts to cater to the younger crowds. This is a travesty. If the thought is to get the younger people behind the programs, let them be brought along like us.

I started watching Nebraska games when I was still in diapers. (Of course I don't remember them, but I was there.) Over the years I grew to appreciate the team and traditions. Those things didn't bend to accommodate me, I molded with what was already in place. That is what the youths of today need to do.

If the students or younger people don't like the uniforms or such, then they are the ones who must change; not us.

Herbie would have been only the

1: Which member of the Husker staff ended his long career in the 1995 Orange Bowl?

2: Besides being head football coach, what other duty does Tom Osborne have within the University of Nebraska athletic department?

3: Which Nebraska quarterback gained the most rushing yards in one season?

4: Who was fond of calling Memorial Stadium "Our House" and proclaiming that he had the key?

5: Nebraska has performed well on television. On which network have the Huskers had the most success?

Answers to last week's questions (Sept. 23 issue)

1: Roger Craig, Tom Rathman and Jamie Williams were all a part of the San Francisco 49ers' winning effort in Super Bowl XXIV. 2: Kansas State shut out the Huskers 12-0 in 1968 during the second of Bob Devaney's dismal 6-4 seasons. No other team has held the Huskers scoreless at home in 26 years. 3: Nebraska donned all red uniforms in the 1986 game with Oklahoma. Unfortunately, the outcome was no so sweet as the Huskers lost 20-17 in Lincoln. 4: Tom Osborne's 1978 team managed to beat No. 1 Oklahoma, 17-14 in a game which was also his first victory over the Sooners as Nebraska's head coach. 5: Osborne was a star quarterback for Hastings College. The *Omaha World-Herald* named Osborne its College Athlete of the Year in 1959.

One request we always get is for a Nebraska trivia section to be added to *Huskers Illustrated*. Well, the wait is over. Starting with this issue, each week we'll provide five questions from Lowell Greunke's trivia book "Husker Trivia." You'll have a week to mull over the answer before we print the answers. If you'd like a copy of "Husker Trivia," send a check for \$13.95 to: Husker Trivia, P.O. Box 44142, Omaha, NE, 68144

Husker Trivia

first casualty, but those with the power got smart.

Homer Tilton
Helena, Mont.

People seem to find it easy to question Tom Osborne's decision-making policy and it makes me sick. Who are these people to judge that the greatest coach in college football history makes bad personnel decisions? I'm sorry, but I didn't hear anyone complaining when we won a national title.

It's so easy to sit back in a comfortable couch at home, get bits of information off the television or print medium and then formulate an opinion. That's everyone's God-given right. But don't question Osborne's integrity. I think he has a little better handle on the situation than we all do. And if he wants to stand behind players because of what he knows, then that should be good enough for all of us.

As much as the man has done for Husker fans, I'd think we could give him the benefit of the doubt.

Lori Burnett
Spokane, Wash.

Losing Lawrence Phillips really hurts, but I think we can win without him. Not that I wouldn't want him in the backfield if the circumstances were different. That would be dumb to say. But has anyone seen the depth behind him? Damon Benning. Clinton Childs. James Sims. Ahman Green. Those are some great backs.

The person we can't afford to lose is Tommie Frazier. Now before all the Brook Berringer support letters start flooding your office, I'm not talking bad about Brook. I think he's a great player. I just think we'd find it harder to win the rest of the games if Frazier was watching from the sideline. His leadership is too vital a key to returning.

Cash Drewery
Hilton Head, S.C.

It's sad that it takes controversy for the media to flock to Lincoln. This is one of the greatest football atmospheres in college football, yet no one cares until trouble brews. What's happened to this game?

Sherry Morgan
Lincoln, Neb.

...

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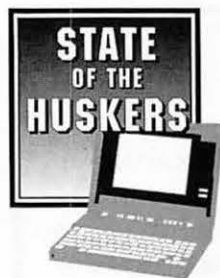
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Still Focused

The loss of Lawrence Phillips hurts, but the Huskers have proved they can overcome adversity and come out on top

By MIKE BABCOCK

The theme for this Nebraska football season is "Staying Focused." It is emphasized on the cover of the Cornhuskers' media and recruiting guide as well as on one of two popular schedule posters distributed by the sports information office.

The theme is appropriate and, in light of recent events, ironic. The primary visual element on the cover of the guide and the poster is a picture of junior I-back Lawrence Phillips inside the lens of a camera.

Phillips is described as a preseason All-American and Heisman Trophy candidate on the guide's cover. Two weeks ago, he was among the front-runners in the Heisman race. He was playing as well as any Cornhusker I-back had played in a long time, according to coach Tom Osborne.

Phillips had rushed for 359 yards and scored seven touchdowns in two games. He was averaging more than 10 yards per carry.

Phillips was off to a remarkable start, better even than Mike Rozier's in 1983, when Rozier established Nebraska's single-season rushing record (2,148 yards) and won the Heisman Trophy. The logical assumption was that he would make a serious run at both of Rozier's achievements this season, then submit his name for the National Football League draft next spring. It would have been a perfect subplot to the Cornhuskers' national championship defense. But it was not to be.

By now, the circumstances surrounding the unfortunate revision of such a scenario are all too familiar to Nebraska fans, and the rest of the nation, for that matter. The Cornhuskers have tried to stay focused while being the focus themselves of national media attention that is rarely, if ever, seen in Lincoln.

Reporters from near and far laid siege to Memorial Stadium in mid-September. The distractions were

such that the players, in an unprecedented move, voted against doing interviews the week before the Arizona State game. The gates at Memorial Stadium were chained, something that occurred only once in recent years, to ensure practice secrecy for last season's Colorado game.

Whether Nebraska can remain focused while surrounded by this media circus is the most significant concern in the aftermath of Osborne's

ning a national championship. Football success is a team function. Having acknowledged that, however, individual players can be the difference between very good teams and great teams. And Frazier is such a player.

He is the definitive quarterback for Nebraska's option offense. Osborne couldn't find a much better quarterback for his system, not without exceeding the reasonable limits of human capability, anyway. If Frazier could be replaced last season, as he was so capably by Brook Berringer, then Phillips can be replaced this season, as he has been.

The Cornhuskers were deep enough in I-backs going into the season that senior Clinton Childs was spending the majority of his time at fullback.

Childs has since returned to I-back, joining junior Damon Benning, sophomore James Sims and true freshman Ahman Green, who was drawing rare praise from Nebraska's coaches before he ever arrived for the start of fall camp.

The loss of Phillips hasn't changed things as much as the loss of Frazier did a year ago. Nebraska's offense took on a slightly different look under

Berringer.

Had it not been for what happened with Phillips, the deep thigh bruise Frazier suffered during the first half of the Michigan State game might have earned front page headlines the following week. Osborne tried to allay those concerns, noting at the Extra Point Club luncheon on the Monday following the Michigan State game: "He (Frazier) is no more apt to clot than any other person."

In any case, whatever Nebraska might have accomplished with Phillips, it can still accomplish without him. "I think we've got a great team," Osborne said at the Extra Point Club luncheon.

And, he added, "They are focused." That's the best solution to the problem they are facing. ■



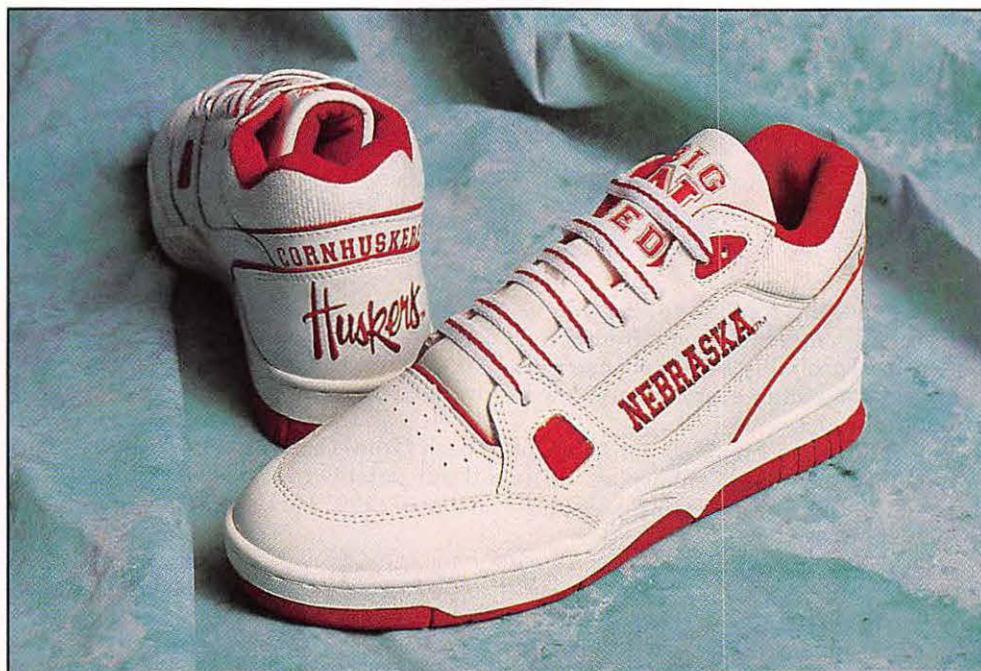
The Huskers' 1995 motto, "Staying Focused," has come to mean more with the suspension of Lawrence Phillips (inside lens).

indefinite suspension of Phillips. It is a greater concern even than the loss of Phillips. Much greater.

Phillips has been and will be missed. This isn't meant to diminish his value to the team. But the Cornhuskers won a national championship last season despite an even greater loss.

Going into the 1994 season, the consensus was that quarterback Tommie Frazier was the player Nebraska could least afford to lose and still finish the business of win-

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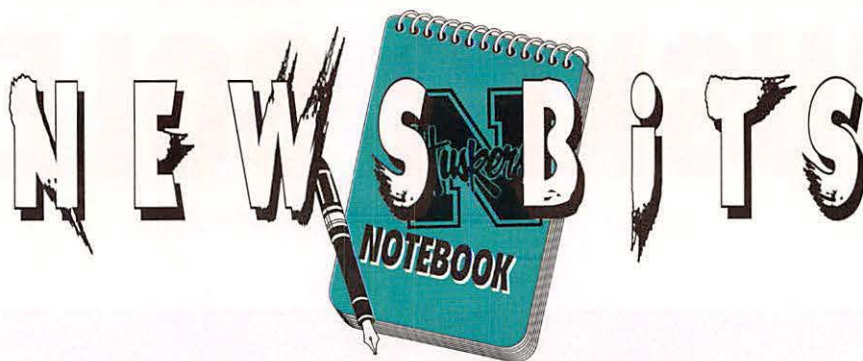
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OUT OF NOWHERE

Admit it. At some point this football season, you've asked someone: Where did James Sims come from? And if you haven't asked, it's probably only because you thought you had missed something everyone else knew and you were too embarrassed.

Unknown players don't often break 80-yard touchdown runs the way Sims did in the Cornhuskers' 50-10 victory at Michigan State. It was a rub-your-eyes-and-look-again run, which showcased his 4.41 40 speed. You won't find anyone faster.

The sophomore I-back from Omaha might be the most athletically gifted backup in college football. Based on Nebraska's performance index, Sims is among the most athletic Cornhusker football players ever. Even so, he remains something of a mystery.

Nebraska's Orange Bowl media guide, for example, listed Sims as a graduate of Omaha Burke High School. The only time Sims had been to Burke was to watch a football game. He attended Central High in Omaha through his junior year, then finished high school in West Memphis, Ark.

He left West Memphis after high school and returned to Omaha, briefly, before moving to Milwaukee with a girlfriend. In Milwaukee, he worked for a beer distributor during the day and delivered to fast-food restaurants

as far south as Chicago at night.

When his relationship with his girlfriend ended, Sims went back to Omaha and contacted Nebraska about walking on.

"It's all about perseverance. I've learned that from coach (Tom) Osborne," Sims said last spring. "He knows about perseverance. It took him 22 seasons (to get a national title). He kept his chin up the whole time."



Sims will celebrate his 24th birthday on Nov. 3, the day before the Iowa State game. He is battling long odds as a walk-on I-back at Nebraska. I.M. Hipp and Jarvis Redwine have been the most notable walk-ons at that position in recent seasons.

And Redwine was a transfer from Oregon State who had been a scholarship recruit out of high school.

"Most people said I'd never make it this far. There's nothing to be down about. I've made a long journey just to get where I am," Sims said. The anonymity "is minor compared to what I've been through."

"Things are starting to fall into place for me," he said. "I'm really enjoying this. I figure that by being patient and keeping a positive outlook on football and life in general everything is going to work out."

It already has. ■

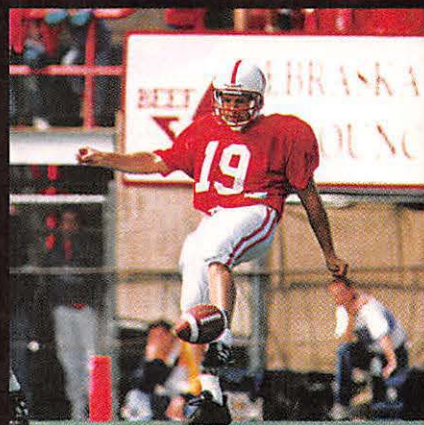
longkickKOSCH

Who said punters never get any credit? Sophomore Jesse Kosch (right) won the AT&T Long Distance punt award last week after averaging 61-yards per boot in a 77-28 win against Arizona State on Sept. 16.

Kosch's 74-yard punt in the second quarter was the longest of his career. The Columbus native also nailed a 48-yarder in the game.

The award marked the second straight week in which a Husker claimed the long distance honor. I-back James Sims won the week before after an 80-yard scamper against Michigan State.

AT&T donates \$400 each week to the NCAA's Degree-Completion Award Program. Kosch and other winners receive an engraved plaque. ■

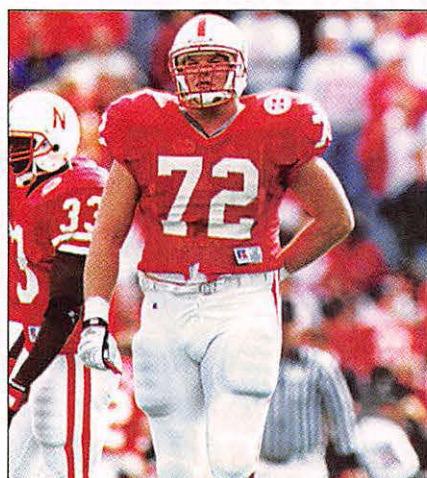


NU HALL GROWS BY 10

I.M. Hipp will be among 10 former Cornhuskers inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame during a ceremony prior to the Washington State game at Memorial Stadium.

The others are: Ron Douglas (1934-36), Richard "Dick" Hutton (1946-48), Robert "Moon" Mullen (1948-51), LaVerne Allers (1964-66), Dick Davis (1966-68), Guy Ingles (1968-70), Steve Damkroger (1979-82), Bret Clark (1982-84) and Zach Wiegert (1991-94).

Wiegert's (below) induction is automatic as a result of his winning the Outland Trophy in 1994. Douglas was chosen by the executive committee of the Nebraska chapter of the National Football



Foundation. The others were selected by a vote of chapter members.

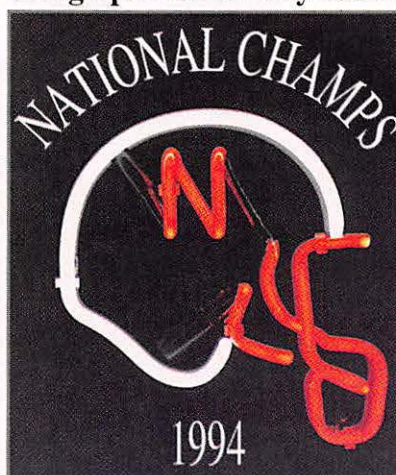
Al Papik, Nebraska's senior associate athletic director, will receive the Lyell Bremser Merit Award, and Milton C. Ebers of Fremont will receive the Clarence E. Swanson Memorial Service Award.

Other Hall of Fame inductees to be honored include: Thurlo E. McCurdy, an athlete, head football coach and athletic director at Hastings College; Robert "Bob" Hauver, who earned four football letters at the University of Nebraska-Kearney in the late 1940s; Dr. Erich A. Von Fange, who played football at Seward Concordia in the 1940s; and Revoe Hill, who lettered four years at Midland Lutheran College in the 1940s. ■

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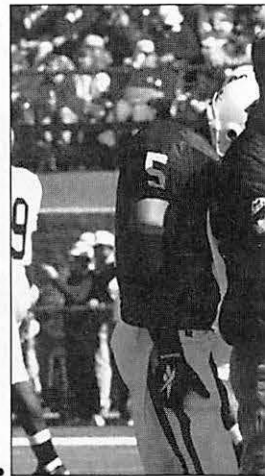
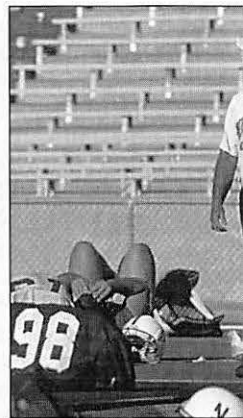
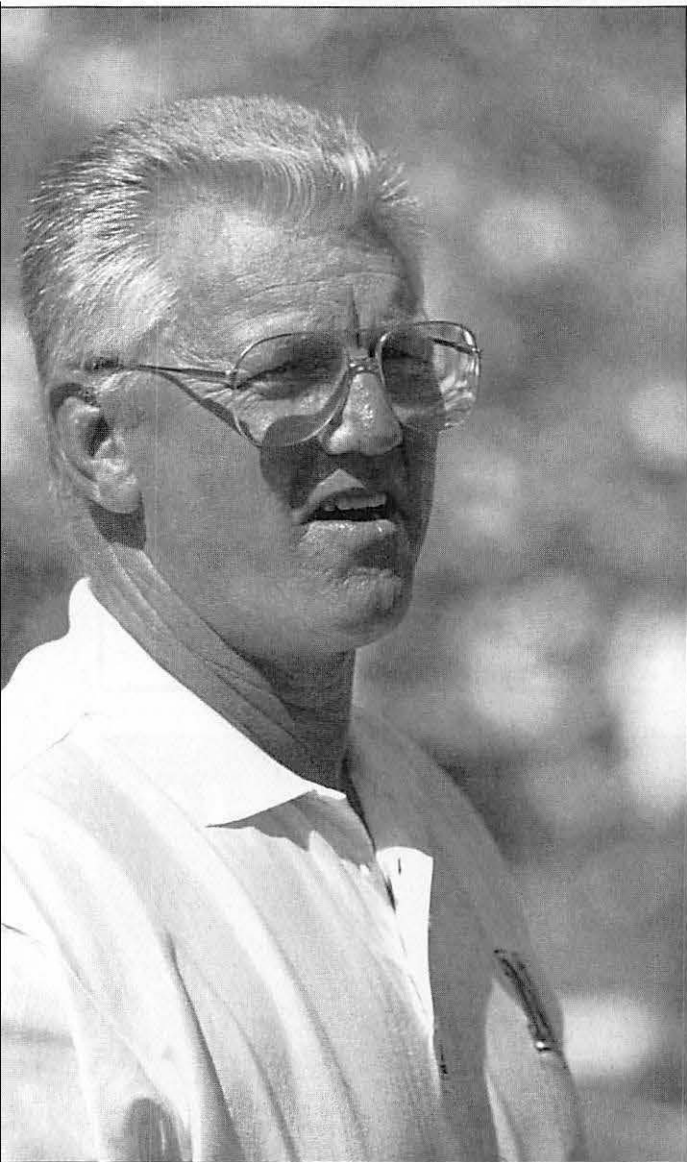
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STABII



Tom Osborne's assistant coaches represent disparate personalities, but have worked coaching magic together as one of the most stable staffs in college football

Tom Osborne didn't do a lot of persuading to get George Darlington to join his staff when he succeeded Bob Devaney as Nebraska's head football coach in 1973.

"When you're out of a job, you don't need a great sales pitch," Darlington said recently.

Darlington was out of a job in 1972, having been fired along with head coach Dewey King by San Jose State following a 5-6 season. King had a good relationship with the university president and athletic director, Darlington said. But influential boosters had forced the dis-

missals.

So Darlington had joined the ranks of the unemployed. That's the nature of coaching. Unemployment is never more than a 5-6 season away. "You don't ever tack down your carpet," Darlington said.

Darlington and wife Sue have tacked down the carpet in their Lincoln home, however. He is in his 23rd year with Osborne. He is the only remaining member of Osborne's first staff.

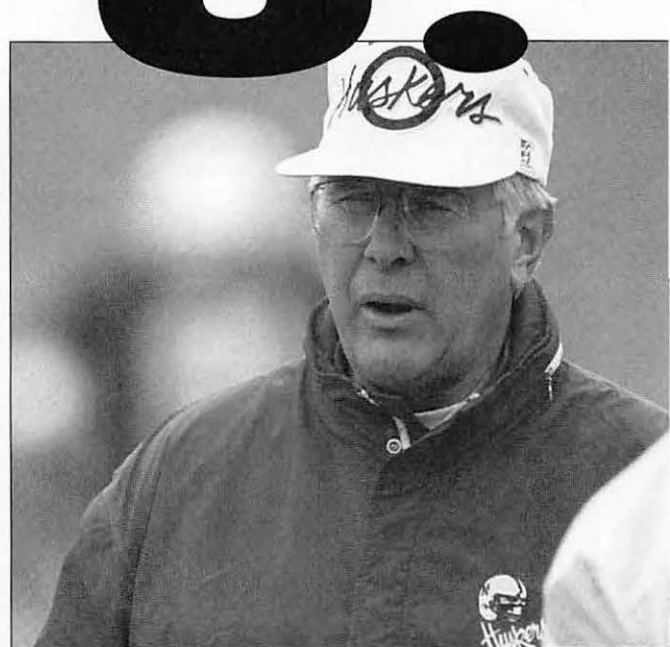
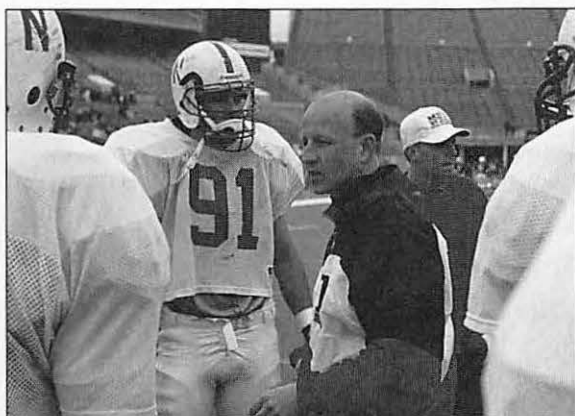
Milt Tenopir arrived in 1974. Charlie McBride came from Wisconsin in 1977. The three represent a combined 61 years of experi-

ence at Nebraska, or a little more than half of the combined total of Osborne's staff.

Staff stability is among the many factors in the Huskers' remarkable success under Osborne. Counting this season, Osborne's nine full-time assistants have a combined total of 118 years experience at Nebraska. This is the first year for linebackers coach Craig Bohl.

In addition, four of his assistants — Frank Solich, Turner Gill, Craig Bohl and Tony Samuel — have played for the Cornhuskers, providing them with a unique affinity for the program.

LITY U



Clockwise from left to right: Charlie McBride, Frank Solich, Dan Young, Craig Bohl, George Darlington, Tony Samuel, Milt Tenopir, Turner Gill and Ron Brown.

No other Big Eight school has even half that much combined experience among assistant coaches. Though that statistic is distorted by the fact the conference has four new head coaches this season and another with only one year at his school, it still helps to explain why Nebraska has always won at least nine games and gone to a bowl under Osborne. Oh yes, and it helps to explain why the Cornhuskers are defending national champions.

Nebraska is unique in that sense. "You see a consistency," said Darlington, who is in his 10th season coaching the secondary after spend-

ing his first 13 in charge of the defensive ends, now called outside linebackers. The change in terminology coincided with his move to the secondary.

He followed Bob Thornton, a former Cornhusker defensive back, who left the staff to go into private business after the 1985 season.

Darlington told Osborne that he would be willing to take over the secondary if everyone else agreed that he should. Coaching defensive backs "is a great challenge," he said. "You're always on the edge. There's pressure on (coaching) every position. But I think coaching the sec-

ondary is one of the most stressful."

His only stipulation in taking responsibility for the secondary was, "I didn't want to be playing with just walk-ons back there," he said.

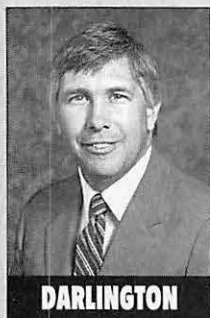
The secondary, once a haven for walk-ons (many of whom had outstanding Cornhusker careers), started to become a recruiting priority at about that time.

Rather than trying scholarship players on offense first and then switching them to the secondary, Nebraska began recruiting defensive backs as defensive backs.

Darlington began coaching in 1962 at Johnson Regional High

STARTLING STATISTIC

Counting this year, Osborne's nine full-time assistants have a combined total of **118 years** experience at Nebraska



George Darlington

Responsibilities: Defensive Backs • Years At Nebraska: 23
All-Conference Players Coached: 17 • All-American Players Coached: 4
Coaching Philosophy: To guide each defensive back to reach his potential as both a student and an athlete.



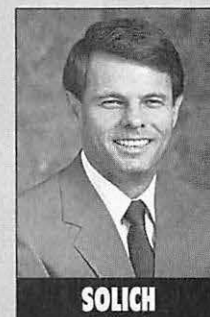
Milt Tenopir

Responsibilities: Offensive Line • Years At Nebraska: 22
All-Conference Players Coached: 40 • All-American Players Coached: 16
Coaching Philosophy: I hope to install a sense of confidence and self-worth into every young man I coach.



Charlie McBride

Responsibilities: Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line • Years At Nebraska: 19
All-Conference Players Coached: 15 • All-American Players Coached: 4
Coaching Philosophy: I believe it's important to recognize the feelings of every player I coach and work as hard as I can to see that he reaches his goals. I also believe that if you're going to chew a player out, you also better be willing to hug his neck.



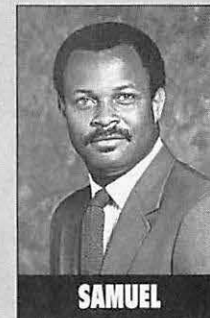
Frank Solich

Responsibilities: Assistant Head Coach/Running Backs • Years At Nebraska: 17
All-Conference Players Coached: 12 • All-American Players Coached: 2
Heisman Trophy Winners Coached: 1
Coaching Philosophy: It's important to me as a coach to help players develop to the best of their abilities and to have them understand their responsibilities as student-athletes.



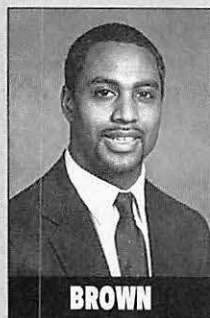
Dan Young

Responsibilities: Offensive Line/Kickers • Years At Nebraska: 13
All-Conference Players Coached: 18 • All-American Players Coached: 6
Outland Trophy Winners Coached: 2
Coaching Philosophy: I believe there is no substitute for hard work. I feel after the preparation, players reach a level that will give them the confidence they need to deal with any adversities.



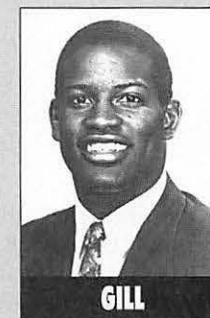
Tony Samuel

Responsibilities: Outside Linebackers • Years At Nebraska: 10
All-Conference Players Coached: 7 • All-American Players Coached: 3
Butkus Award Winners Coached: 1
Coaching Philosophy: To create an atmosphere of pride and willingness to learn the sport, as well as the game of life. To learn as much as possible about the game and pass that knowledge on to the players and help them develop personally, as well as athletically.



Ron Brown

Responsibilities: Receivers • Years At Nebraska: 9
All-Conference Players Coached: 4 • Academic All-American Players Coached: 1
Coaching Philosophy: What's most important to me as a coach is to assist each athlete in maximizing every God-given talent that he has. The level of abilities will vary, but my desire is to help each young man understand that true success is based upon this principle of maximization of ability and not on how he compares with everyone else.



Turner Gill

Responsibilities: Quarterbacks • Years At Nebraska: 4
All-Conference Players Coached: 2
Coaching Philosophy: It is my intention to teach my players how to utilize their football skills to the best of their ability. My underlying goal, however, is to teach the intangible qualities of leadership, poise, self-discipline and respect for others.



Craig Bohl

Responsibilities: Linebackers • Years At Nebraska: 1
Coaching Philosophy: Each day I want to create a positive environment for personal growth. It is important to me that our players enjoy and grow as people in the classroom, socially and on the field.

School in Clark, N.J. In 1964, he moved to Lebanon Valley, Pa., and after one year as an assistant on Bob Blackman's staff at Dartmouth University (in 1968), he was hired by San Jose State. He was defensive coordinator and defensive line coach for the Spartans.

King recommended him to Osborne while they were attending a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Darlington interviewed with Osborne at a coaches' convention.

Osborne was looking to hire three assistants to go with the seven Devaney assistants who remained for the 1973 season.

The carryovers included: Monte Kiffin, defensive coordinator and defensive line; John Melton, tight ends and wingbacks; Warren Powers, defensive backs; Mike Corgan, offensive backs; Clete Fischer, offensive line and kickers; Bill Myles, offensive line, and Jim Ross, freshman coach. Jim Anderson and Guy Ingles served as graduate assistants.

Osborne hired Rick Duval from Colorado to coach the linebackers and coordinate recruiting. And he hired Jerry Moore from Southern Methodist to coach quarterbacks and wide receivers, his positions under Devaney.

Darlington said he didn't tell his wife about the interview with Osborne, but when Osborne called to offer him the job, his wife Sue was the one who took the phone call. "She was all excited," Darlington said.

Neither of them knew much about Lincoln. But he would have a job.

"We were both from the East Coast," said Darlington. His home was West Virginia. Because of that, when Osborne and wife Nancy invited them out for dinner at the American Legion Club on the day they arrived, "we imagined a beer joint on the side of a hill somewhere. This Legion Club didn't quite fit the image we had."

Darlington is extremely loyal to Osborne. All of the assistants are. When Osborne considered accepting the head coach's job at Colorado in 1978, Darlington was willing to go along, even though he preferred to stay at Nebraska.

"We would have gone," he said. "But it wasn't one of those things we'd like to do.

"We had been at San Jose State during the Vietnam riots and had

seen the degradation in the (San Francisco) Bay Area. Sue had been in the student union at Colorado, and she thought it looked like Berkeley (Calif.)."

Osborne thought Colorado looked pretty good. But it was not good enough to get him to leave Nebraska, even though a variety of factors caused him to seriously consider the offer, including pressure to beat Oklahoma. He had only beaten the Sooners once at that time.

Osborne's assistants represent disparate personalities, but they have worked coaching magic together.

Darlington, like the other assistants, has had opportunities to go elsewhere. "One time in particular, had I been more aggressive (in pursuing a job), I might have left," he said.

There are numerous reasons why Osborne's staff has remained so stable, including "the way you're treated as a professional by Tom; the way he runs the program with the highest integrity; his compassion for kids and the legitimate opportunity to win it all most seasons." Plus, "you don't have to put up with a lot of the

extraneous things that a head coach would have to put up with," Darlington said.

Osborne isn't dictatorial in dealing with his assistants, according to Darlington, which is another reason they remain at Nebraska. Diversity is accepted and valued. "It's healthy," said Darlington. "As long as everybody is on the same page, caring for kids, doing a professional job and being loyal, Tom allows everyone to be themselves. He understands the things that are truly important."

Winning a national championship hasn't changed Osborne even a little, Darlington said. "Tom's very much the same. But that's to be expected."

Darlington didn't know what to expect when he interviewed with Osborne 23 years ago. But you won't find anyone more committed to Osborne now.

"Not to take anything away from our public officials, but I don't know of a better representative of the state than Tom," Darlington said.



Darlington has felt that way almost from the day he arrived in Lincoln. He wouldn't have tacked down that carpet otherwise. ■

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WASHINGTON STATE VS. NEBRASKA

4-0 **2-1**

Sept. 30, 1995 • 1 p.m. (CDT)
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.

SERIES RECORD: 3-0 (Washington State leads)
LAST MEETING: The Huskers' 1977 season got off to a rocky start, losing the home and season opener, 19-10.

SCOUTING REPORT

Cougars Bring Revamped Defense to Lincoln

By Mark Derowitsch

After two games, Washington State coach Mike Price decided to tinker with his defense.

He moved freshmen Darryl Jones and Gary Holmes into the starting line-ups at tackle, junior Johnny Nansen took over the top spot at strong-side linebacker and sophomore Duane Stewart is now the No. 1 strong safety.

But don't take the moves as a sign of desperation from Price. In fact, Price believes the Cougars have a chance to have an excellent football team.

"Right now, we're healthy and we're feeling good about ourselves," said Price, in his seventh year at Washington State. "We made a few changes on the depth chart, but we still think we can be a very good football team."

Price should know a thing or two about coaching good teams. Last year, the Cougars finished 8-4, capping the season with a 10-3 victory over Baylor in the Alamo Bowl.

But after starting out 1-1 — losing to Pittsburgh 17-13 in the season-

opener before beating Montana 38-21 — expect things to get harder for the Cougars. After opening Pacific 10 Conference play by beating UCLA 24-15, Washington State then travels to Lincoln to take on defending national champion Nebraska in a 1 p.m. game at Memorial Stadium.

After the Huskers, the Cougars play Oregon State, at USC and at Oregon.

The road will be tough for the Cougars, but Price believes another win is all they need to get things going.

Washington State needs to defend the pass better in order to get on the roll Price talked about.

That's why Jones (a 309-pound freshman) and Holmes moved into the starting line-up to clog up the middle up front, replacing Da'vid Evans and freshman Delmar Morais.

In two starts, Evans was in on just one tackle and Morais

had two.

"Darryl plays the run a little better than Da'vid," Price said. "Da'vid will still play a lot because he plays the pass a little better."



QB Chad Davis leads a potent WSU offense that averages 400 yards per game.

PRESS PICKS



• **Mike Babcock, Huskers Illustrated:** Going into the season, it seemed as if Arizona State was going to be the

toughest non-conference game for Nebraska. That didn't prove to be the case. Arizona State was regarded as better than Washington State in the Pac 10. It is logical to assume that Washington State will not fare well against Nebraska. The only change is that Tom Osborne will not let it get so out of hand.

Nebraska 56, Washington State 10.

• **Jim Rose, SportsDay Mid America:** The Huskers are finding that this football season promises mostly good days; but hopefully it's occurred to them that anybody can make it a bad day. I don't believe the Cougars are going to win this game, but they've played well enough, are studiously coached and will bring plenty of talent to Lincoln. Be mindful, Big Red ... treat this like Colorado week.

Nebraska 35, Washington State 17.

• **Chris Fowler, ESPN:** Nothing deters or distracts the Huskers. It's as ugly as they want it to be.

Nebraska 45, Washington State 10.

• **Doug Looney, college football freelance writer:**

Washington State is catching Nebraska at the worst possible time. With all the stuff going on at Nebraska, it's "us against the world." Washington State will not sneak up on Nebraska, and Nebraska and Tom Osborne are never in a forgiving mood.

Nebraska 40, Washington State 6.

• **Chris Greer, Huskers Illustrated:** Nebraska needs to stay focused or the Cougars could make things difficult. WSU will give the NU secondary a true test.

Nebraska 45, Washington State 24.

Senior Dwayne Sanders and sophomore Shane Doyle start at the end positions.

At linebacker, in addition to Nansen, senior Chris Hayes is the top weak-side linebacker and junior James Darling will start in the middle.

The secondary is the Cougars' biggest weakness, giving up 294 yards through the air per contest. Seniors Brian Walker and Greg Burns start at cornerback, and Terrell Henderson starts at free safety alongside Stewart.

"Duane Stewart has just been playing real well for us," Price said of his strong safety who made five tackles in two games as a backup.

The Cougars' offense already has things rolling this season. Led by quarterback Chad Davis, Washington State is averaging 400 yards of offense per game.

Davis makes the offense go. Davis, who signed a national letter

of intent with Oklahoma in 1992 but transferred to Washington State a year later, threw for 2,299 yards last season in his first year on the West Coast. He picked up where he left off this season, throwing for 466 yards and completing 60 percent of his passes in two games.

Price thinks highly of Davis, who moved into the Cougar starting lineup when Drew Bledsoe went to the NFL.

"When you look across the nation at the quarterbacks returning, Chad Davis will have to be in the top 10," Price said.

Davis' primary receiver is tight end Eric Moore, who grabbed 10 passes for 129 yards in the opening two games this season.

"We are solid at tight end, boy are we solid," Price said. "Eric Moore rates with the best tight ends at Washington State since I've been here."

Slotback Jay Dumas, split end Chad Carpenter and flanker Bryant Thomas are also heavily involved in the passing game. Dumas, Carpenter and Thomas have eight, six and four receptions, respectively.

The Cougars have had limited success running the ball behind backs Frank Madu and Derek Sparks. The two combined for 305 yards and three touchdowns in two games this season. Sparks usually starts, but Madu leads the team in rushing with 186 yards.

Washington State has a solid kicking game, led by punter George Martin, who is averaging 46.4 yards per kick after 14 attempts. Place kicker Tony Truant is perfect on extra-points and has made 3-of-4



Senior Chris Hayes is a solid linebacker for the Cougars, who won the Alamo Bowl last year on the strength of their defense.

field-goal attempts this season.

Up front, the Cougars seldom allow opposing defenses to reach Davis, giving up just 2.5 sacks per game. Center Marc McCloskey is the leader of the crew, tipping the scales at 313 pounds and standing 6-foot-4.

The right side of the line is handled by sophomore guard Cory Solomon and senior tackle John Scukanec.

Junior Scott Sanderson starts at left tackle, alongside guard sophomore Jason McEndoo.

Washington State has never lost to Nebraska, beating the Huskers in 1920, 1957 and 1977. ■

1995 WASHINGTON ST. FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Overall/Conf.) — 2-1/ 1-0

Sept. 2	@ Pittsburgh	L, 17-13
Sept. 9	Montana	W, 38-21
Sept. 23	UCLA	W, 24-15
Sept. 30	@ Nebraska	
Oct. 7	Oregon St.	
Oct. 14	@ Southern Cal	
Oct. 21	@ Oregon	
Oct. 28	Arizona	
Nov. 4	@ California	
Nov. 11	Stanford	
Nov. 19	@ Washington	

WASHINGTON STATE VS. NEBRASKA TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	7	Reggie Baul	5-8	170	Sr
	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Jr
LT	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	285	Jr
LG	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	So
	68	Steve Volin	6-2	290	Sr
C	54	Aaron Graham	6-4	285	Sr
	53	Matt Vrzal	6-1	300	Jr
RG	69	Steve Ott	6-4	290	Sr
	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	280	So
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	So
	77	Adam Treu	6-6	295	Jr
TE	87	Mark Gilman	6-4	240	Sr
	90	Tim Carpenter	6-2	240	So
QB	15	Tommie Frazier	6-2	210	Sr
	18	Brook Berringer	6-4	220	Sr
FB	22	Jeff Makovicka	5-11	225	Sr
	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Jr
IB	*21	Damon Benning	5-11	205	Jr
	30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	Fr
WB	33	Clester Johnson	5-11	210	Sr
	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	200	Jr
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-11	190	Fr

COUGAR DEFENSE

SE	92	Dwayne Sanders	6-6	257	Sr
	52	Robert Booth	6-3	245	Sr
T	97	Darryl Jones	6-3	309	Fr
	88	Da'vid Evans	6-4	258	Jr
T	95	Gary Holmes	6-7	275	Fr
	93	Delmar Morais	6-3	258	Fr
WE	46	Shane Doyle	6-3	240	So
	52	Robert Booth	6-3	245	Sr
WLB	22	Chris Hayes	6-0	213	Sr
	36	Brandon Moore	5-11	220	So
MLB	33	James Darling	6-1	245	Jr
	38	Phillip Glover	6-0	228	So
SLB	4	Johnny Nansen	6-0	222	Jr
	64	Todd Nelson	6-3	230	So
LC	6	Brian Walker	6-1	184	Sr
	32	Jamel Payton	5-10	160	So
SS	25	Duane Stewart	6-3	208	So
	20	Derek Henderson	6-0	200	Jr
FS	3	Terrell Henderson	6-0	190	Jr
	21	Ken Moore	6-0	194	So
RC	27	Greg Burns	5-10	178	Sr
	15	Shad Hinchin	5-11	177	Jr
P	26	George Martin	6-3	187	Sr

COUGAR OFFENSE

SE	17	Chad Carpenter	6-0	191	Jr
	8	Shawn Tims	5-10	180	So
LT	72	Scott Sanderson	6-7	286	Jr
	73	Rob Rainville	6-5	318	Fr
LG	66	Jason McEndoo	6-6	297	So
	77	Mike Sage	6-2	321	Fr
C	68	Marc McCloskey	6-4	313	Sr
	71	Cory Solomon	6-4	260	So
RG	71	Cory Solomon	6-4	260	So
	55	Rick Austin	6-2	336	Fr
RT	79	John Scukanec	6-5	308	Sr
	76	Ryan McShane	6-7	306	So
TE	89	Eric Moore	6-5	225	Sr
	98	David Knuff	6-3	230	Jr
SB	1	Jay Dumas	6-1	177	Sr
	9	Kearney Adams	5-8	172	Sr
QB	12	Chad Davis	6-2	200	Jr
	16	Ryan Leaf	6-5	228	Sr
TB	5	Derek Sparks	5-11	230	Sr
	34	Frank Madu	5-9	180	Sr
WR	18	Bryant Thomas	6-1	202	So
	45	Shawn McWashington	5-11	176	Sr
PK	47	Tony Truant	5-8	180	Jr

HUSKER DEFENSE

OLB	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	250	Jr
	58	Luther Hardin	6-2	245	Sr
DT	55	Christian Peter	6-3	300	Sr
	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	310	Jr
DT	95	Jason Peter	6-4	275	So
	74	Scott Saltzman	6-2	260	Jr
OLB	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	240	So
	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	230	Fr
SLB	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	220	Fr
	23	Larry Arnold	6-4	230	Jr
MLB	41	Phil Ellis	6-2	225	Sr
	46	Doug Colman	6-3	245	Sr
WLB	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	225	Jr
	52	Aaron Penland	6-1	220	Sr
LC	20	Michael Booker	6-2	190	Jr
	12	Mike Fullmer	5-7	160	Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Jr
	48	Dave Alderman	5-10	185	Jr
FS	9	Tony Veland	6-2	205	Sr
	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	180	Jr
RC	8	Tyrone Williams	6-0	185	Sr
	2	Leslie Dennis	5-8	165	So
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	180	So

Depth charts were compiled Sept. 24, 1995 # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

Osborne Pulls Back Reins In Offensive Rout, 49-7

Damon Benning wasn't full speed in Nebraska's 49-7 victory against Pacific. Really, he wasn't.

Oh, the Cornhusker I-back might have appeared to be full speed, what with his gaining 98 yards and scoring three touchdowns on only five carries during the first quarter.

But by his own estimation, he was playing at about 80 percent, on purpose. "I didn't really let loose at all today," Benning said. "Sure, the numbers look good on paper. But I was scared to go to that next gear."

His fear was a result of a pulled hamstring that sidelined him for the Michigan State and Arizona State games. Prior to Pacific's visit, he had carried only eight times this season.

With Clinton Childs out because of a knee strain and Lawrence Phillips suspended indefinitely, Benning became the starter. "I was ready to get back into the swing of things," he said.

He had heard people say he was injury prone, that he wasn't tough. He wanted to "make a statement that I could come back," he said.

Benning achieved his goal, before rolling an ankle on a spin move and being helped from the field early in the third quarter. By then, he had 173 yards on only 10 carries.

By then, Nebraska led 35-0 and was beginning to ease up offensively. "In the second half, we didn't run as many plays that could have scored," quarterback Tommie Frazier said.

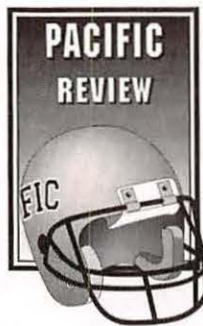
Even during the first half, the Cornhuskers didn't open up the way they had in a 77-28 victory against

Arizona State the week before, according to center Aaron Graham. "It's sad to say, but coach (Tom) Osborne might have been limiting himself on his play calling," Graham said. "I don't know if that's right or not. But this week, we were a little more conservative."

"If we had run the same plays, we would have been just as successful. It probably could have been worse than it was," said Graham.

It was bad enough, as far as Pacific coach Chuck Shelton was concerned. The Cornhuskers gained 731 yards, including 569 rushing. After one quarter, they were on pace to gain nearly 1,000 yards. If Osborne

The end zone became a second home for I-backs Ahman Green (30) and Damon Benning as the two combined for five scores, two and three respectively.



Pacific game photos by Bob Berry



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WASHINGTON RETURNS

Riley Washington's (No. 3) name wasn't listed on the flipcard distributed in the pressbox for the Nebraska-Pacific game at Memorial Stadium last Saturday. It wasn't in the center lineups section of the official game program, either, though you could have found it on the program's alphabetical roster.

Washington's playing status has been in doubt since an early-August incident in which he was charged with attempted second-degree murder and felony use of a firearm.

Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne has maintained a belief in Washington's innocence, and as a result decided to allow the junior wingback from Chula Vista, Calif., to play until the matter can be resolved in court. Washington's trial might not take place until after the season.

Washington had been practicing with the team, but he hadn't played in a game until last Saturday. As a result, "he was a little out of synch, a little bit rusty," Osborne said. "It takes a while."

Nebraska fans applauded his return. "I didn't expect a reception quite that large. It made me feel at home," said Washington, who was among those contributing key blocks on Damon Benning's first touchdown run.

He caught two passes for 13 yards and had an opportunity or two for a touchdown pass taken away by a stiff breeze out of the south that made throwing the ball difficult. ■



hadn't backed off, they might have. They ran 106 plays, and averaged 6.9 yards per play. Even so, ESPN, in reporting the final score, noted that: "It was the first time Nebraska has been held under 50 points." Held under? That's stretching a definition.

"I think they've taken their kind of offensive football to another level," Shelton said. "They've improved it to a point where it's very difficult to deal with. Even if you could match up physically, it's difficult to deal with, and certainly we couldn't match up physically."

Pacific's leading tacklers were safeties Matt Kilgras and Nigel Burton, who combined on 27, including 15 unassisted. Clearly, the Tigers weren't stopping Nebraska's running backs at the line of scrimmage.

Freshman Ahman Green, Benning's backup, ran for 112 yards and two touchdowns, on only 15 carries. Frazier averaged nearly nine yards per carry, and scored a touchdown, as did James Sims, the No. 3 I-back Saturday.

Nebraska's 731 yards were the most ever against Pacific. The total would have been even greater had the Cornhuskers passed more efficiently. They finished 16-of-36 for 162 yards, with two interceptions. "We didn't pass very well," Osborne said.

Some of the problem was a south wind, gusting to 20 miles an hour and preventing both teams from completing 50 percent of their passes. Into the wind, the ball often fell short. With the wind, it tended to sail.

Pacific's only touchdown was scored on a 12-yard pass from Nick Sellers to Tyrone Watley with 5:24 remaining in the third quarter. The fourth quarter was scoreless.

Sellers, who was under considerable pressure much of the afternoon, was understandably impressed by Nebraska. The Cornhuskers "have the makings of a national championship football team," he said.

"I don't know of a team that can play with these guys right now."

Tailback Joe Abdullah agreed. "I never really got a chance to get outside," he said. "I never got a chance to show my talent."

The senior from Stockton, Calif., averaged 123.7 rushing yards in Pacific's first three games. He managed only 25 yards on 13 carries against the Cornhuskers. "Their defensive line is so good, our offensive linemen never had a chance to get to their linebackers," Abdullah said.

"They're the best team in the country. I don't know if there's such a thing as a perfect college football team, but they're about as close as

Pacific quarterback Nick Sellers had trouble carrying the offensive load while toting the Husker defense.

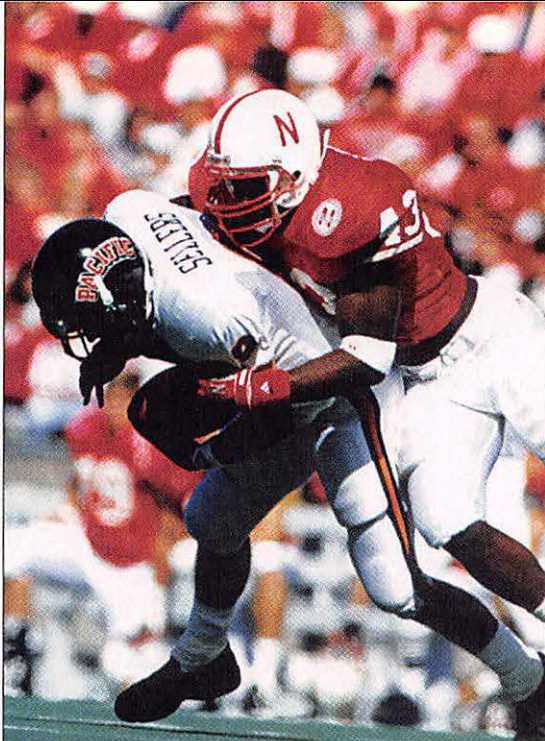
you can come."

Shelton, whose Tigers lost in Lincoln last season 70-21, said this Nebraska team is better than the one a year ago, when the Cornhuskers won the national championship.

"I didn't expect that," he said. "When I started looking at film last week, I bawled. I thought they were good enough last year and they'd be down because they lost some of those (offensive) line-men."

Nebraska scored touchdowns on five of its first six possessions and its first two possessions in the second half. The Cornhuskers punted only once, with 4:24 left in the third quarter.

Except for the ankle sprain, Benning was able to enjoy his return to action at the end of a week in which he was cleared of a misdemeanor assault charge. "I'm not going to ask for any apologies," he said. "That goes with the territory. It didn't look very good, but I knew the truth would come out. I would



just like people to know there were a whole lot of inaccuracies.

"People shouldn't be so quick to judge. I didn't do anything wrong. I handled the situation like I should."

Benning said he was surprised by the support he received on campus, from strangers as well as friends. People even left notes of encourage-

ment on his car.

Osborne was hoping Benning would be healthy enough to play against Washington State this week. Nebraska's depth at I-back has been seriously diminished by the indefinite suspension of Lawrence Phillips and the indefinite loss of Childs to a sore knee.

Childs won't be able to play against Washington State, Osborne said. He might miss the Missouri and Kansas State games, as well. And Benning's status is uncertain. Sims was bothered a back problem, and Joel Makovicka, who would move over from fullback if need be, aggravated a toe injury in Saturday's game.

Green was the only completely healthy I-back. "It's pretty thin right now," Osborne said.

Benning was optimistic that he would be able to play on Saturday. "Hopefully it will be OK," he said.

If not, well, "I wouldn't be out there at any less than 100 percent, hurting my team," Benning said.

Hey, he was only 80 percent for the Pacific game and look what he contributed. There was nothing hurtful about that. ■

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STATISTICS VS. PACIFIC

SEPTEMBER 23, 1995

SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	21	14	14	0	49
PACIFIC	0	0	7	0	7

TEAM STATS

	UOP	NU
First Downs	7	36
Rushing	2	26
Passing	5	10
Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	17	70
Yards Gained Rushing	72	578
Yards Lost Rushing	12	9
Net yards rushing	60	569
Net yards passing	137	162
Passes attempted	31	36
Passes completed	14	16
Had intercepted	1	2
Total plays	48	106
Total net yards	197	731
Avg. gain per play	4.1	6.9
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	2-20	3-26
Punts-yards	11-481	1-33
Avg. per punt	43.7	33.0
Possession time	20:16	39:44

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Farley, T.	2	2	4	1	0
Colman, D.	3	0	3	0	0
Booker, M.	3	0	3	0	0
Minter, M.	2	1	3	0	0
Terwilliger, R.	2	1	3	0	0
Peter, J.	2	0	2	0	0
Kelsay, C.	2	0	2	0	0
Schmadeke, D.	2	0	2	0	0
Peter, C.	0	1	1	0	0
Wistrom, G.	0	1	1	0	0
Ogard, J.	0	1	1	0	0
Jenkins, J.	0	1	1	0	0
Foreman, J.	1	0	1	0	0
Hesse, J.	1	0	1	0	0
Penland, A.	0	1	1	0	0
Skoda, A.	0	0	0	0	1

PACIFIC	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Kilgras, M.	10	4	14	0	0
Burton, N.	5	8	13	0	1
Tatola, E.	2	10	12	0	0
Evans, J.	3	5	8	0	0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Benning, D.	10	173	17.3	62	3
Green, A.	15	112	7.5	25	2
Frazier, T.	7	62	8.9	26	1
Sims, J.	9	55	6.1	17	1
Schuster, B.	3	47	15.6	43	0
Makovicka, Jeff	5	33	6.6	24	0
Makovicka, Joel	3	29	9.6	15	0
Berringer, B.	3	21	7.0	12	0
Turman, M.	6	12	2.0	4	0
Legate, B.	4	11	2.8	5	0
Baul, R.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Eicher, C.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Cobb, J.	1	2	2.0	2	0

PACIFIC

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Reeder, Y.	1	36	36.0	36	0
Abdullah, J.	13	25	1.9	9	0
Sellars, N.	2	1	0.5	9	0
Blakney, K.	1	-2	-2.0	0	0

PASSING NEBRASKA

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Berringer, B.	17-9-0	57	0
Frazier, T.	14-6-1	90	0
Turman, M.	5-1-1	15	0

PASSING PACIFIC

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Sellars, N.	25-13-0	132	1
Fotheringham	5-1-0	5	0
Fassel, J.	1-0-1	0	0

RECEIVING NEBRASKA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Johnson, C.	2	31	15.5	25	0
Baul, R.	2	24	12.0	13	0
Holbein, B.	2	24	12.0	13	0
Vedral, J.	2	23	11.5	19	0
Cheatham, K.	2	19	8.0	10	0
Washington, R.	2	13	6.5	9	0
Green, A.	2	-2	-1.0	2	0
Carpenter, T.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Jackson, S.	1	15	15.0	15	0

PACIFIC

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Atkins, E.	3	63	21.0	38	0
Watley, T.	3	17	5.6	12	1
Abdullah, J.	3	8	2.6	4	0
Morales, M.	2	28	14.0	15	0
Bowers, D.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Smith, R.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Hoffart, J.	1	6	6.0	6	0

1995 SEASON STATS

(4 GAMES)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Phillips, L.	2	34	359	179.5	7
Green, A.	4	38	349	69.8	6
Benning, D.	3	18	235	78.3	3
Childs, C.	2	20	226	113.0	2
Sims, J.	4	21	216	54.0	3
Frazier, T.	4	27	191	47.8	4
Makovicka, Jeff	4	26	150	37.5	1
Makovicka, Joel	4	13	93	23.3	0
Schuster, B.	4	10	88	22.0	0
Berringer, B.	4	11	60	15.0	0
Turman, M.	4	10	34	8.5	0

PASSING

Name	G	A-C-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frazier, T.	4	26-20-2	.770	376	4
Berringer, B.	4	42-22-0	.523	210	0
Turman, M.	4	10-4-2	.400	73	1

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Baul, R.	4	5	187	37.4	46.8	1
Johnson, C.	3	7	169	24.1	56.3	1
Vedral, J.	4	5	85	17.0	21.3	2
Gilman, M.	3	8	83	10.4	27.6	0
Holbein, B.	4	7	55	7.8	13.8	0
Cheatham, K.	3	4	31	7.8	10.3	0
Jackson, S.	3	2	16	8.0	5.3	0
Childs, C.	2	1	10	10	5.0	0
Phillips, L.	2	1	7	7.0	3.5	0
Lake, J.	2	1	7	7.0	3.5	0

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Minter, M.	4	12	9	21	1	0
Ellis, P.	4	9	10	19	0	2
Hesse, J.	4	8	9	17	0	0
Terwilliger, R.	4	12	7	19	0	0
Peter, C.	4	6	10	16	0	0
Farley, T.	4	9	8	17	2	3
Foreman, J.	4	5	8	13	0	0
Penland, A.	4	4	8	12	0	0
Saltsman, S.	4	5	6	11	0	1
Veland, T.	4	4	7	11	0	0
Wistrom, G.	4	3	8	11	0	0
Kelsay, C.	4	6	5	11	0	0
Booker, M.	4	8	4	12	1	0
McFarlin, O.	4	5	4	9	0	0
Stokes, E.	4	4	5	9	0	0
Tomich, J.	4	6	2	8	0	4
Colman, D.	4	6	5	11	0	0
Williams, J.	4	4	4	8	0	0
Warfield, E.	4	3	4	7	0	0
Arnold, L.	3	1	6	7	0	0
Williams, T.	4	5	2	7	0	0
Rucker, M.	3	1	5	6	0	0
Peter, J.	4	3	4	7	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	2,754	1,275
Net Rushing Yards	2,028	420
Passing Yards	726	855

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT
NU	72	85	42	42	240
Opponents	14	21	24	7	66

1995 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Conference) — 4-0

Aug. 31	@ Oklahoma St.	W, 64-21
Sept. 9	@ Michigan St.	W, 50-10
Sept. 16	Arizona St.	W, 77-28
Sept. 23	Pacific	W, 49-7
Sept. 30	Washington St.	
Oct. 14	Missouri	
Oct. 21	Kansas St.	
Oct. 28	@ Colorado	
Nov. 4	Iowa St.	
Nov. 11	@ Kansas	
Nov. 25	Oklahoma	





Bargain Back

Nebraska got a great return on its investment after spending only 13 cents to recruit one of the greatest walk-on tailbacks in school history — I.M. Hipp

Editor's Note — This is the fifth of an 11-part series featuring the best Nebraska running backs of the modern era. Next week we'll profile Jarvis Redwine.

Isaiah Hipp wore thermal underwear T-shirts beneath his shoulder pads. The T-shirts were cut off just below the rib cage. The sleeves were clipped to expose his biceps. And his jersey number, 32, was written in indelible ink on the back of each one.

Glen Abbott, Nebraska's equipment manager, always kept a half-dozen of the T-shirts on hand.

Hipp was asked once why he wore the T-shirts in warm weather as well as in cold. "They're cool," he replied. He did not elaborate because he saw no need to do so.

Others could concern themselves with understanding why he would wear such a shirt. They could also wonder about his passion for lifting weights, which was so great, the story went, that the weight room in the South Stadium had to be locked on the mornings of home games. Otherwise, Hipp's pregame routine would have included lifting.

Hipp was enigmatic. His feet were size 10, but he crammed them into size 8 1/2 shoes, explaining that tight-fitting shoes prevented slipping, sliding and blisters. He punctuated his sentences with the word "somewhat." And he rubbed his muscles with Johnson's Baby Oil while doing interviews in front of his locker.

Players were more accessible to reporters then. Too accessible, probably. It was difficult to find some privacy, to escape the glare of publicity. No one knew that better than Hipp, who was promoted by Don Bryant, Nebraska's sports information director at the time, as "college football's most famous walk-on."

It was Bryant's considerable imagination that created I.M. Hipp. When I.M. came to Nebraska from Chapin, S.C., he was Isaiah. His mother called him Ike because, he said, it was shorter than Isaiah.

His full name was Isaiah Moses Walter Hipp. His father was Walter

top 10	
Running Backs In The Modern Era	
Bobby Reynolds.....	1950-52
Harry Wilson	1964-66
Jeff Kinney	1969-71
I.M. Hipp	1977-79
Jarvis Redwine	1979-80
Mike Rozier	1981-83
Keith Jones	1984-87
Ken Clark	1987-89
Derek Brown	1990-92
Calvin Jones	1991-93

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Smith, a bishop in the Kingdom of God Church. His mother was Cora Lee Hipp. He was Isaiah Moses at birth, and when he was 16 years old, his father asked him to add the name Walter. Isaiah did, changing the necessary records to make the name legal. Isaiah and Moses are biblical, of course. Walter is not.

His name was unique and so was he. At his best, Hipp was as good as just about any running back who has ever played at Nebraska. And the Cornhuskers spent about 13 cents to recruit him. That was the cost of a postage stamp in the mid-1970s. Nebraska sent Hipp a standard, form-letter questionnaire after he inquired about the possibility of his playing for the Cornhuskers.

He had watched Nebraska games on television and liked what he saw. He offered his services to coach Tom Osborne because no one would offer him a football scholarship after he missed much of his senior season in high school because of a shoulder

Nebraska's freshman coach, asked what position he played.

"I-back," Hipp said.

"We'll see," said Ross.

He and the other Cornhusker coaches did. Hipp led a 5-0 freshman team in rushing with 366 yards and four touchdowns on 67 carries. Then he sat out the 1976 season as a red-shirt.

Hipp's sophomore season began inauspiciously. He carried once in the 1977 season-opener against Washington State at Memorial Stadium. Junior Rick Berns, with whom Hipp had alternated on the freshman team, went to the sideline to change jerseys — his had been torn — and Hipp got his first varsity carry. He was held to no gain and fumbled.

Nebraska, ranked No. 15 in the Associated Press preseason poll, lost to the unranked Cougars of first-year head coach Warren Powers 19-10. The afternoon was forgettable all the way around.



University of Nebraska Sports Information

injury. Before the injury, Hipp received recruiting letters from such schools as UCLA, Texas, Texas A&M, Florida, Oklahoma and Hawaii. After the injury, the letters stopped.

"If South Carolina had offered me a scholarship, I'd have gone," Hipp said. But South Carolina didn't offer a scholarship. No one did. So Hipp took the initiative and contacted the Cornhuskers.

He was told he could walk on. He had to borrow \$96 from his girlfriend to buy a plane ticket to get to Lincoln in the fall of 1975. Jim Ross,

Hipp, an early Heisman candidate in 1977, finished his career with 2,814 rushing yards and 21 touchdowns.

The Cornhuskers won their second game in 1977, upsetting No. 4 Alabama 31-24 in Lincoln, and Hipp gained his first varsity yards — 38 of them on six carries. They weren't much. But they were a start to one of the most productive sophomore seasons in modern Nebraska history.

Because of an injury to Berns, Hipp became the starting I-back. He

gained 122 yards on 18 carries against Baylor, then ran for 254 yards on 28 carries in a 31-13 victory against Indiana. A week later, he rushed for 207 yards on 23 carries in a 26-9 victory against Kansas State at Manhattan.

By the eighth game of his sophomore season, Hipp had reached 1,000 yards rushing. And he had gained only 38 yards, total, in the first two games, remember.

Hipp was compared to Bobby Reynolds. He was featured in *Sports Illustrated*. And he was mentioned as a Heisman Trophy candidate, putting him in the company of Earl Campbell of Texas and Terry Miller of Oklahoma State. Campbell won the Heisman Trophy in 1977.

Hipp said winning three Heisman Trophies in three seasons would be nice. "That's just a big dream," he said. "I guess everyone has to have some dreams."

Reporters picked up on Hipp's remarkable performances, and they picked up on his name, as did newspaper headline writers: "I.M. Hipp." "I'm Hipp." "Hipp, Hipp, Hooray." And another of Bryant's clever monikers: "Hoppity Hipp," a variation on "Hippity Hopp," the nickname once carried by Harry Hopp, a Cornhusker running back who finished his career with the 1941 Rose Bowl team.

They also picked up on the fact that Hipp played his sophomore season without a scholarship. He was a true walk-on. Typically, walk-ons who worked their way into the starting lineup were rewarded with scholarships. But Hipp was third on the depth chart, behind Berns and Monte Anthony, going into the 1977 season.

He paid his bills with Basic Economic Opportunity Grant money. NCAA rules were different then. Division I-A football programs could award as many as 30 scholarships each year, up to a total of 95. But players such as Hipp could accept BEOG money without counting against the 95 total.

Hipp rushed for 172 yards and two touchdowns in a 33-15 upset of No. 7 Colorado in Nebraska's homecoming game, despite suffering from the flu and losing 11 pounds during the week.

After the Colorado game, his yardage began to taper off. He rushed for 343 yards in the final four regular-season games, with 200 of those yards coming in a 52-7 rout of Kansas.

Even so, Hipp finished with 1,301 rushing yards, the second-best single-season total in modern Cornhusker history at the time. Reynolds was No. 1 on the list, with 1,342 yards as a sophomore in 1950. Jeff Kinney and Tony Davis were Nebraska's only other 1,000-yard rushers in the modern era. Kinney gained 1,037 yards for the 1971 national championship team, and Davis rushed for 1,008 yards in 1973.

Hipp alternated with Berns in 1978 and just missed 1,000 rushing yards during the regular season. He finished with 936 yards and seven touchdowns. After two seasons, he was third on the Cornhuskers' career rushing list, behind Berns and

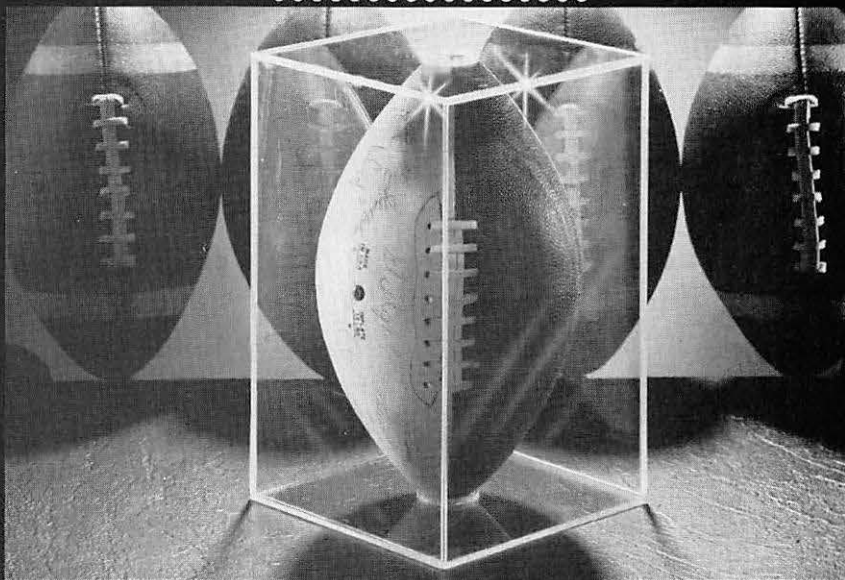
Kinney.

Hipp managed only 577 rushing yards as a senior in 1979. He was slowed by a turf toe and gave way to Jarvis Redwine, a transfer from Oregon State who rushed for 1,042 yards and eight touchdowns. He was nicknamed "Marvelous Jarvis."

Hipp finished as Nebraska's career rushing leader with 2,814 yards and 21 touchdowns. He still ranks fourth in the modern era, behind Rozier, Calvin Jones and Ken Clark.

He remains in fast company, and the mention of his name still draws immediate response from Cornhusker fans who remember his remarkable sophomore season. ■

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CHILDS' PLAY

Now that he's been given the chance, Clinton Childs is quickly showing he's more than just another backup

Clinton Childs' grandmother, Mary Carter, lived in North Omaha, just two doors from his mother.

"My mom played more like a sister role to me, and my grandmother played a mom's role. That's how close we were," Childs said.

Childs, who plays both fullback and I-back for the Nebraska football team, is easily one of the meanest-looking Huskers, but he softens when he talks about his grandmother, known as Nan to her many children and great-grandchildren.

Childs, a 21-year-old senior, doesn't only look mean, he runs mean. He punishes tacklers. He ran with determination and abandon last season, when he finished as the national champions' third-leading rusher and second-leading kickoff returner.

He was a major contributor on a team that went 13-0, which is the

reason people raised their eyebrows when Childs wasn't among the 66 players on the Huskers' travel roster for their opener Aug. 31 at Oklahoma State.

Childs, a scholarship recruit in 1992, was listed fourth on the depth chart at fullback. Naturally, his absence from Stillwater, Okla., raised questions. Had he simply been beaten out by better players? Was a deteriorating attitude such a problem that the coaches didn't want to bring him on the road? Was the switch he made from I-back to fullback during spring practices wearing on him?

Was he thinking about quitting?

"You'll never hear me say those words," Childs said. "I've never given up on anything. I'm way too far along in the ballgame to quit. I may be an old fish around here now, but I'll never quit."

BY STEVE SIPPLE



Nan surely would have been disappointed had her favorite Husker quit fighting during his senior year, when he was supposed to be a team leader and a man the younger players could emulate.

Childs never quit fighting, but

which led to his first-game suspension. When he returned to preseason drills, he scrimmaged poorly while the players he was battling for the top fullback job played well.

"It put him behind the eight-ball and down on the depth chart," said

Solich had a meeting with me, and I told them, 'I'm a man, and I know I should have contacted you guys before practice and let you know I was going to miss,'" Childs said. "I failed to do it and suffered the consequences."

"I WANTED TO SHOW TO MYSELF THAT I WAS A LI

when his grandmother died unexpectedly the first week of August — right before Nebraska started fall workouts — he was understandably crushed.

Childs missed some practices. One of his absences was unexcused,

Nebraska assistant head coach Frank Solich, who is in charge of the running backs. "But he has been battling back ever since."

Childs harbored no animosity toward the coaches.

"Coach (Tom) Osborne and coach

The Huskers really didn't need Childs in their 64-21 victory against Oklahoma State. Without him, Nebraska rushed for a nation-leading 513 yards. Even so, he wanted to be there badly.

The next game, against Michigan State, Nebraska needed Childs badly. Damon Benning, the No. 2 I-back, didn't make the trip to East Lansing, Mich., because of his nagging hamstring injury.

With Benning out, Childs practiced at I-back all week leading up to the game and then rushed eight times for 83 yards in the Huskers' 50-10 victory.

"You can tell people I'm back," Childs said. "I haven't really gone anywhere, but I'm back."

Just as Nan would want it.

"I know what she would want me to do if she was still here," Childs said. "That's why I'm not going to let anything get me down."

Nebraska's players will need that type of attitude in light of the off-the-field problems that have beset the team.

After his sparkling performance against Michigan State, Childs became Nebraska's starting I-back against Arizona State after Heisman Trophy candidate Lawrence Phillips was dismissed from the team.

Phillips was arrested for trespassing and third-degree assault against a former girlfriend in connection with a Sept. 10 incident in Lincoln.

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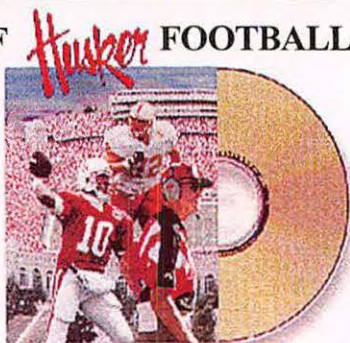
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The same weekend, Benning was arrested for assault on a former girlfriend. Benning, however, wasn't suspended.

With Phillips out and Benning battling his hamstring problems, Childs became the top man on the I-

have liked to stay at fullback," Solich said. "However, we have three healthy fullbacks who are playing well, so he's needed more at I-back."

"Whichever one I play, I know both of them well," Childs said.

Childs rushed 62 times for 395

about possibly moving to fullback, where the Huskers lost standout Cory Schlesinger to graduation.

Childs didn't hesitate to say yes.

"They said we may be a little thin at the position and that I might be able to make a difference," Childs

"MORE THAN A BACKUP" - Clinton Childs

back chart. True freshman Ahman Green and 23-year-old sophomore James Sims also became more prominent in the Huskers' offensive plans at I-back.

Childs said he was confident the backup I-backs — and the Husker fullbacks, for that matter — could give Nebraska a needed lift.

"Any of us can play — any of us can start — anywhere else in the country," he said after the Michigan State game.

And Childs certainly put his ability where he mouth is.

In his first career start at I-back, against Arizona State, he rushed 12 times for 143 yards and two touchdowns. A knee strain sidelined him late in the blowout (77-28), but not before he was able to show he could help carry the team.

"There wasn't a lot of pressure on me," he said. "I had played in all 13 games last year. I wanted to show to myself that I was a little more than a backup."

Childs had moved to fullback full time during spring practices and then was switched back to I-back because of Benning's injury and Phillips' dismissal.

But Solich said Childs isn't necessarily through as a fullback.

"I think Clinton probably would

yards last season while sharing time at No. 2 I-back with Benning.

But in February, Childs said, Osborne and Solich approached him

said. "I was like, 'Whatever is going to help the team.'"

Childs has the same attitude about his switch back to I-back. ■

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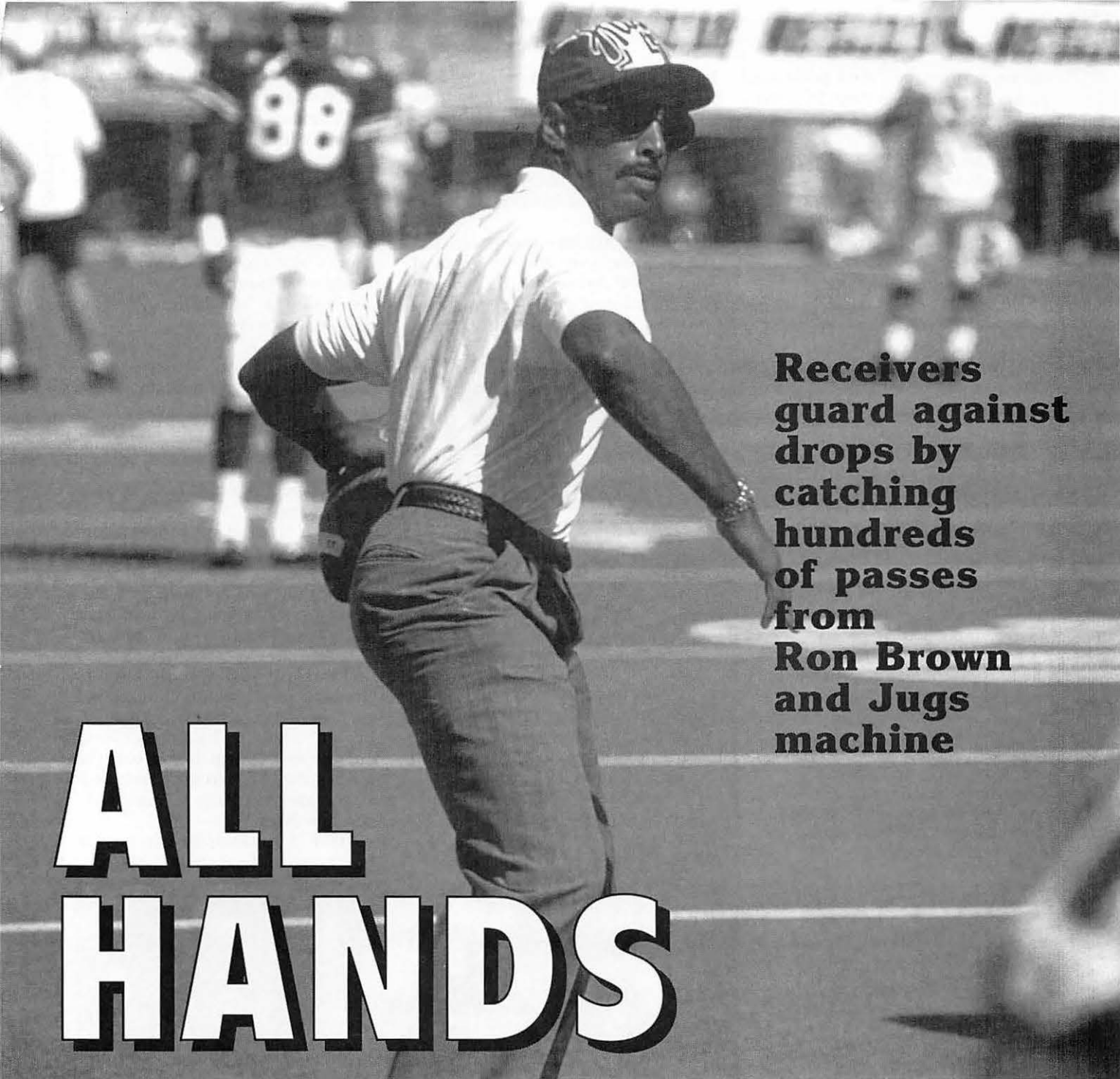
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ALL HANDS

In those rare instances when a Nebraska receiver fails to hold onto a pass, Ron Brown's reaction is almost always the same. He recalls the week's preparation, day by day, and asks himself: "Did I put that in?"

Brown tries to approximate every conceivable situation in practice so there will be no surprises for his receivers during games.

"With the kind of offense we have, there is tremendous pressure on the receivers," he said.

The kind of offense Nebraska has, of course, is option-oriented, which means more often than not the Cornhusker receivers are blocking

for runs instead of catching passes. The surest way for a receiver to get on the field is to show he can block.

Nebraska's receivers use their hands to block, and by the end of practice they've blocked so much that "they can barely do fingertip pushups," Brown said.

With only a few passes coming their way, Husker receivers can't afford to drop even one. The goal Brown sets for his receivers is to drop no more than 10 passes during the season. That's a combined total, not 10 apiece. "That's really tough," he said.

Nevertheless, they achieved the goal a year ago in a 12-game regular

season. Nebraska's receivers had seven drops in the first five games and only two in the last seven. "They really picked it up," Brown said.

They picked up this season where they left off a year ago. "It's concentration," he said. And practice, plenty of practice.

Brown expects his players to catch at least 100 passes each day during the season. In the offseason, he asks them to catch 300 a day, although he cannot monitor them.

Brown throws passes to the receivers before, during and after practice. Passes are thrown to them when they return to the huddle in

station scrimmages. And additional passes are thrown to them by a football-throwing contraption, the Jugs machine.

The device includes what appear to be two trailer tires mounted on a tripod. Footballs are inserted between the tires and launched by the spinning of the tires. The angle and speed of the passes can be controlled by the Jugs operator.

Brown hadn't used a Jugs machine in recent seasons, mainly because the one Nebraska had wasn't working properly. But now the Cornhuskers have a new one.

Early in the season, the Jugs machine was set to shoot passes out at about 60 mph to receivers no more than 20 yards away. Quarterbacks Tommie Frazier and Brook Berringer were throwing passes at approximately 45 to 50 mph, Brown said.

But instead of setting the Jugs machine at 45 or 50 mph, he cranked it up to 60 mph. Brown said he wanted to challenge the receivers,

This year's crop of receivers, including split end Kenny Cheatham (6), tries to emulate the style of former wingback and current assistant Abdul Muhammad (above).

but he also wanted to prepare them for harder passes since quarterbacks sometimes throw with greater velocity early in the season because they are anxious. It is important not to set the velocity too high. "You don't want jammed or broken fingers," Brown said.

The Jugs machine passes are consistent in velocity and the angle at which they arrive. But Brown still throws a lot of passes because he likes his receivers to see variety.

• Monday is "confidence day," when fundamentals are the focus.

• Tuesday is "tough-catch day." Among other things, Brown has receivers dive for passes.

• Wednesday is "distractions day." Concentration is the key.

• Thursday is "real challenge day," when variety is the spice of practice and receivers never know exactly what to expect.

• Friday is "sun-ball day." And occasionally "wet-ball day."

In a passing offense, receivers can afford to drop a ball now and then, knowing that they'll get more chances. At Nebraska, "if you drop one or two, you won't have a lot more chances," Brown said.

It's his job to make certain that receivers take advantage of each and every one of those chances.

That Brown's receivers are taught well is apparent when watching former

Cornhusker Abdul Muhammad, who is helping coach this fall. Even when he is catching balls that are thrown back by receivers, Muhammad's form is perfect. He watches the ball into his hands and immediately pulls it to his chest, tucking it away.

After thousands of catches, it becomes second nature. ■



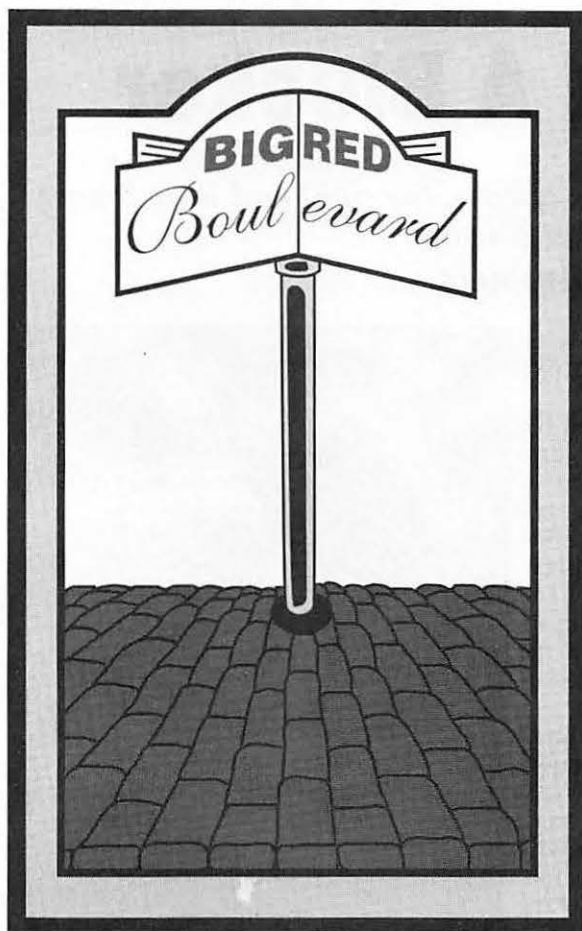
Bob Berry

Brown throws tirelessly: high, low, inside, outside. "I just can't throw as much as I used to," he said. His left arm isn't as alive (to use a baseball pitcher's term) as it once was.

Brown has established a routine to make sure the receivers see all types of passes every week. The routine is fairly self-explanatory:



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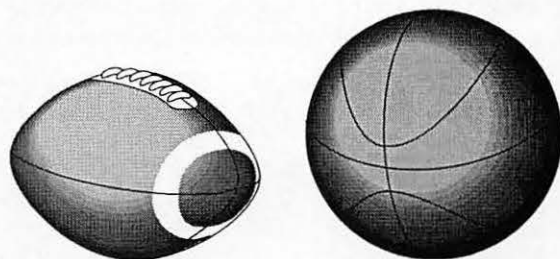
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More Than A Blocker

Since Nebraska has expanded its offense, the tight end is no longer just another lineman

By JAMES HALE

The role of a Nebraska tight end in the 1970s was simple: Block. For all practical purposes, Husker tight ends were simply third tackles. While they must still block in Nebraska's option-oriented offense of the '90s, Husker tight ends must be more diverse.

As coach Tom Osborne has worked to bring more balance to the offense, tight ends have become more involved. They actually catch passes now.

The perfect tight end for such a system should have the size, speed and receiving ability of former Husker Johnny Mitchell, only with better blocking skills. With Mitchell, a 1992 first-round draft choice of the New York Jets, Osborne proved that he could incorporate a great receiving tight end into Nebraska's offense.

The Huskers are hoping to ensure balance in the future by landing some of the nation's top tight ends. Among the top prospects is **Trip Humphrey** (6-foot-5, 210 pounds, 4.65 40-yard dash) of Englewood

(Colo.) Cherry Creek. He is regarded as one of the top five tight ends in the country.

Humphrey, who started for state championship football, basketball and baseball teams at Cherry Creek last season, said he's considering Nebraska. Humphrey is a left-handed pitcher who has a 90-mph fastball and may be selected in next summer's pro baseball draft. He said the key to which college he select is the ability to play two sports.

"I really love both sports and I just think I have too much talent and potential in baseball to want to give it up," Humphrey said. "Both sports are a big reason why UCLA is at the top of my list. They seem more willing to let me play both sports than most."

Nebraska also has a successful history with two-sport athletes. Turner Gill was a pretty fair quarterback and shortstop, and kicker Darin Erstad was taken No. 1 in the amateur baseball draft this past summer.

"I like all the tradition of the Nebraska football program," Humphrey said. "It just seems to grab your attention every time you



The Huskers, high on the lists of many top prospects, hope to land a TE in the mold of former NU great Johnny Mitchell.

think about college football. I like the fact they are now throwing to their tight ends a lot, and their offense seems to be able to do anything that it wants. They have had success with two-sport players too, and that is something that impresses me."

UCLA is the slight leader, with Arizona State, Nebraska, Texas A&M, Illinois, Wisconsin, Washington and OU in the hunt.

Kevin Cooper (6-6, 245, 5.0) of LaPalma (Calif.) Brothren Christian is another three-sport letterman who is being pursued by Nebraska. Cooper, who averaged 15 points and eight rebounds per game in basketball, caught 45 passes for 450 yards and three touchdowns last season.

"If I had to say who was my favorite right now, I would have to go with Nebraska," said Cooper, who met Osborne during the coach's recruiting visit for another player. "I was so impressed with him as a person ... I just really like Nebraska a lot." Cooper, who is also a deep snapper, said he also likes Colorado

TOP TIGHT ENDS

As Nebraska opens up its passing game and continues to rely on blocking tight ends in its running game, several tight ends have shown interest in the Huskers. Here are a few of them:

Player	Ht.	Wt.	40....Schools Under Consideration
Trip Humphrey	6-5	205	4.6.....UCLA, ASU, COL, NU, TEX
Kevin Cooper	6-6	245	5.0.....NU, COL, UCLA
Chris Alex	6-4	243	4.8...USC, ASU, WASH, COL, NU
Greg Dupree	6-3	240	4.6.....NU, WASH, MIA, UCLA
Matt Anderson	6-4	230	4.6..OU, TEX, NU, OSU, KSU, ND
Rashan Burns	6-4	240	4.6.....NU, RUTG, OH ST., ILL
Kevin Gwaltney	6-6	215	4.8.....IA ST., MO, OSU, NU
James Frolich	6-4	215	4.9.....NC ST., BC, NU, PENN ST.
Rocco Fagio	6-5	240	4.8.....NU, ND, PENN ST.
Brady McDonald	6-4	250	4.8.....NU, COL, IA, WIS, WY
Brent Ludwig	6-5	235	4.9.....MIN, WIS, NU, IA
Brad Defauw	6-3	225	4.9.....WIS, NU, IA, IA ST
B.J. Booker	6-6	220	4.7.....MIA, FLA, NU, ND, ALA
Brandon Winey	6-7	250	5.0.....MIA, FLA, NU, ND, ALA

and UCLA.

Jason Moore (6-6, 230, 4.9) of Scottsdale (Ariz.) Horizon is another western recruit who may want to move inland. Moore is an excellent blocker who caught 10 passes for 200 yards for Horizon's Class 5A state championship team. He said he loves Michigan, but doesn't expect to sign there. That could open the door for Nebraska.

"I think it would be a real honor to play there," Moore said. "At the moment, I am leaning toward Arizona State or UCLA, but I am thinking very hard about Nebraska and Northwestern as well."

Chris Alex (6-4, 243, 4.8) of Fontana, Calif., is one of the most complete tight ends in the country. Last year, Alex caught 20 passes at 11.8 yards per catch and three touchdowns. However, it's his blocking that has garnered national attention.

"I think Nebraska is a great program that has a reputation for making guys big and strong in their impressive weight room," Alex said. "They have a great running game, so as a tight end you know you are going to be called upon to block."

Alex said he's wide open concerning recruiting, with USC, Arizona State, Washington, Colorado, Nebraska and Texas A&M high on his list.

Greg Dupree (6-3, 240, 4.6) of Sacramento (Calif.) Grant caught 18 passes for 261 yards and two TDs last season. He said the Huskers are solid contenders with Washington, Miami, UCLA and Colorado.

The Huskers also are interested in **Matt Anderson** (6-4, 230, 4.6) out of Oklahoma, where Nebraska has had recent recruiting success. Although he's the state's best tight end, he's also being recruited at linebacker. Anderson displayed his versatility and athleticism last year, winning the state Class 5A shot put title with a toss of 58 feet and hitting .396 with four home runs for Moore's baseball team.

"Nebraska was the first team that I started receiving letters from," Anderson said. "I definitely want to visit Nebraska to see what the school is like."

OU, Texas and Nebraska are the early front-runners, with Oklahoma State, Kansas State and Notre Dame also in the hunt.

If the Huskers can land one of these tight ends, their diversified offense is sure to benefit. Who knows, one of them could be the next Johnny Mitchell. ■



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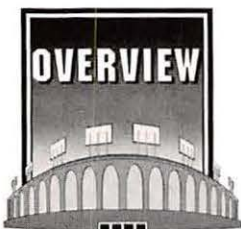


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Win, Place and Show

The conference race appears to be between the top two thoroughbreds — Nebraska and Colorado. But have the NU stallions had enough exercise?

By MIKE BABCOCK

The big-screen television set in the South Stadium varsity lounge was tuned to the ESPN cable television network late Saturday afternoon. ESPN's coverage of the Colorado-Texas A&M game provided an appropriate backdrop for interviews with Nebraska coach Tom Osborne and his players following a 49-7 victory against Pacific.

While the No. 2-ranked Cornhuskers responded to questions regarding the ease with which they had won their first four games this season, No. 7-ranked Colorado was on its way to a 29-21 victory over the nation's third-ranked team at Boulder.

In the process, the Buffaloes' defense limited Texas A&M's Leeland McElroy to 52 yards rushing on 23 carries. McElroy went into the game as the nation's fourth-leading rusher and a Heisman Trophy hopeful. He had averaged 172.5 yards per game.

Plus, Colorado was playing without quarterback Koy Detmer, who left the game with a knee injury in the second quarter. The initial report was that Detmer had suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament, which would sideline him for the remainder of the season.

Osborne was apprised by a newspaper reporter of such a possibility. "I hope that's not true. I seriously mean that," he said. "I want to go against their best."

Even though the Cornhuskers don't play at Colorado until Oct. 28, it's difficult not to look ahead. "I think we're due for a challenge," said quarterback Tommie Frazier. "All we've really been asking for is someone to come in and give us a go."

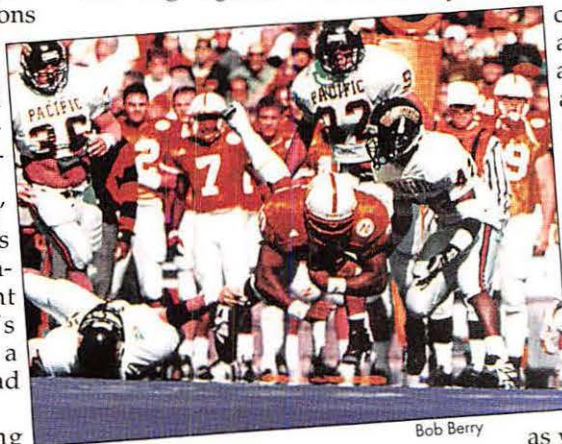
Washington State, Nebraska's next opponent, could be that someone, according to defensive tackle Christian Peter. "Those guys will come prepared. We'll have our hands full," he said.

The Cougars, who feature a rugged rushing defense, are 2-1 after upsetting UCLA 24-15 in Pullman, Wash.

"It'll be a lot tougher next week," said defensive tackle Jason Peter, Christian's brother. "We're looking forward to playing them. Washington State probably will be our hardest test so far. The whole season isn't going to be like this."

Well, maybe it isn't.

The Cornhuskers seemed to lose their edge against Pacific. Barely



Nebraska will find that Washington State won't fall as easily as the Pacific Tigers.

four minutes into the game, they led 14-0. "It's hard when you're expected to beat a team and you go out and score 14 quick points," Frazier said.

"The tendency is to drop off, and that happened a little bit in this game with the offense. We have to stay focused on the whole 60 minutes. We could do a lot better than we did."

That's a scary thought, considering Nebraska finished with 731 total yards and 36 first downs. After the Cornhuskers scored on their first two possessions of the second half to take a 49-0 lead, Osborne turned down his offense, content to finish the game with reserves. He used every player who suited up and was healthy.

With everyone taking a turn, no one got to play a lot. Frazier directed seven series, four of them in the first quarter. It wasn't much different for any of the other starters.

Nebraska's front-line players might not be getting enough experience, according to Frazier. "Personally, I don't think we are," he said. "But it's up to the coach whether he thinks we get enough plays or not."

Cornhusker center Aaron Graham, who expressed a similar concern after a 77-28 victory against Arizona State two weeks ago, said he at least saw more action against Pacific this season than he did a year ago, in a 70-21 victory over the Tigers.

The offensive line has worked hard at preparing itself, according to Graham. It will be able to play a full game when the need arises, he said.

"We take pride in our conditioning. When we have to go four quarters, we'll be good enough to handle that. As long as you know you're in shape, it's not that difficult to stay focused," Graham said.

Nebraska's success the last two seasons has been based on an ability to deal with adversity. A year ago, for example, the Cornhuskers struggled to defeat Wyoming, 42-32.

Such an experience is considerably more valuable than a 42-point victory. "I don't think we were flat," Osborne said. "On the other hand, I don't think we were quite as excited as we have been or will be."

Across the room, images of the Colorado-Texas A&M game filled the big screen. Next up for the Buffaloes is Oklahoma at Norman on Saturday, the same day Nebraska plays Washington State.

"I think they've got a pretty good football team," Osborne said of the Cougars. "I think it'll be a horse race. We're looking forward to a tough game." The Cornhuskers need at least one before they play Colorado.

Or so it would seem. ■



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